

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Lock, especially for vehicle doors, hatches, or the like,
  - with a rotary latch (20), into which a closing part (13) travels when the door is closed, thus pivoting the rotary latch (20) from an open position via a prelatching position into a main latching position;
  - with a catch (30), which, when in the prelatching position, engages in a prelatching stop notch (25) provided on the rotary latch (20) and, when in the main latching position, engages in a main stop notch (26) located on the rotary latch (20); and
  - with a motorized opening aid for the door, comprising a drive unit (15), which uses a power takeoff path to rotate the actuating element (40), which acts directly on the catch (30);
  - where the actuating element (40) has an actuating surface (44), the radial dimension of which increases in the rotational direction (42);
  - and where the actuating element (40) has, on its actuating surface (44), a blocking surface section (45), which serves to prevent the actuating element (40) from rotating in the opposite direction, which blocking surface section is gripped by a blocking element (37) of the catch (30) after the catch (30) has been lifted; and

-- with means for preventing the catch (30) from dropping back into the rotary latch (20) after the catch (30) has been lifted, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a load lever (50), which can be pivoted around the pivot axis (51) and moved into the path (19) along which the catch (30) pivots, prevents the catch (30) from dropping back into the rotary latch (20) after the catch (30) has been lifted; and in that a pivoting moment in the pivoting direction (57) is exerted directly on the load lever (50) by the rotary latch (20) as the latch rotates in the opening direction (22), as a result of which the load lever (50) is pivoted into a position beyond its rest position on the catch (30), i.e., a position a certain distance away from the catch (30), in which position the catch (30) is free to pivot along its path (19).

2. (Currently Amended) Lock according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein, after the rotary latch (20) has been released by the closing part (13), a drive start signal for the drive unit (15) can be transmitted, where the drive part (15) causes the actuating element (40) to move in rotational direction (42).
3. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the drive energy of the drive unit (15) can be transmitted via a pinion (16) to a gear

wheel (43), the gear wheel (43) being in working connection with the actuating element (40).

4. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-3,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the gear wheel (43) and the actuating element (40) have the same axis of rotation (41), and in that the gear wheel (43) and the actuating element (40) are connected to each other for rotation in common, preferably constituting a single component.
5. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-4,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the actuating element (40) functioning as an opening aid moves in rotational direction (42), and in that the rotary latch (20) moves in the opposite rotational direction (22) during the opening process.
6. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-5,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the actuating element (40) functioning as an opening aid runs up against an actuating arm (38) of the catch (30) and lifts the catch (30) out of the main latching position or out of the prelatching position on the rotary latch (20) in opposition to a restoring force (F2).

7. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-6,~~  
~~characterized in that,~~ Claim 1, wherein, after the catch (30)  
has been lifted out of the main latching position or out of the  
prelatching position on the rotary latch (20), it is brought by  
the actuating element (40) into an overstroke position, as a  
result of which the hook (34) on the latch (30) is held a  
certain distance (h) away from the circumference of the rotary  
latch (20).
8. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-7,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the actuating surface  
(44) of the actuating element (40), the radial dimension of  
which increases in the rotational direction (42), is at its  
maximum distance from the axis of rotation (41) at radius (R1),  
as a result of which the catch (30) is in its overstroke  
position and thus at its maximum distance (h) from the rotary  
latch (20), and in that, upon the further movement of the  
actuating element (40) in rotational direction (42), the radius  
(R2) of the actuating surface (44) remains unchanged.
9. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-8,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the blocking element (37)  
is located at the end of the adjusting arm (38) of the catch  
(30), and in that, after the catch (30) has been raised, the

blocking surface section (45) of the actuating element (40) comes to rest against this blocking element when the actuating element tries to rotate in the direction opposite the rotational direction (42).

10. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-9,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the blocking surface section (45) which has run up against the blocking element (37) triggers a drive stop signal and/or a signal for restoring the gearbox to the home position.
11. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-10,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the catch (39) has another arm (35) with a thrust surface (36) at the end, which actuates a signal switch (17) only when the catch (30) is located in the main stop notch (26) on the rotary latch (20).
12. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-11,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein a spring loading (F2) causes the hook (34) of the catch (30) to drop into the main stop notch (26) or into the pre-stop notch (25) of the rotary latch.

13. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-12,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein -- after the catch (30)  
" has been raised -- the rotary latch (20) is guided automatically  
by the spring loading (F1) acting on it out of its prelatching  
position or out of its main latching position into its open  
position.
14. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-13,~~  
~~characterized in that,~~ Claim 1, wherein, to prevent the catch  
(30) from dropping back into the rotary latch (20), a spring-  
loaded (F4) projection (54) of the load lever (50) blocks the  
outward-pivoted adjusting arm (38) of the catch (30) and thus  
prevents the catch (30) from pivoting along its path (19).
15. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-14,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the load lever (50) can  
be moved around a pivot axis (51).
16. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-15,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the pivot axis (51) of  
the load lever (50) is a certain distance away from the axis of  
rotation (41) of the actuating element (40), where the pivot pin  
of the actuating element (40) representing the axis of rotation  
(41) engages in a recess (56) in the load lever (50), where the

recess (56) preferably has a longitudinal dimension aligned with the pivoting movement (57).

17. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-16,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the pivoting moment which moves the load lever (50) out of the rest position is produced by a shoulder (27) on the rotary latch (20), which in this case pushes a circumferential section (55) of the load lever (50) in the pivoting direction (57).
18. (Currently Amended) Lock according to ~~one of Claims 1-17,~~  
~~characterized in that,~~ Claim 1, wherein, when the load lever (50) is releasing the catch (30), it is moving in the pivoting direction (57), whereas the rotary latch (20) is moving in the opposite rotational direction (22).